



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
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NEWS RELEASE

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Education Department awards 12 grants to schools, districts Funds to support work as “professional learning communities”

The R.I. Department of Education (RIDE) has awarded 12 grants to Rhode Island schools and districts to support teams of educators working together as “professional learning communities.”

Districts, schools, and consortia of educators from across schools or districts were invited to apply for grants to support their work on any one of three initiatives:

- closing achievement gaps;
- developing and implementing innovative approaches to building effective parent-teacher partnerships; or
- using the Common Core State Standards.

“In order to make our schools America’s best, we need to work together to improve teaching and learning and to close achievement gaps,” said Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “I am pleased that RIDE received so many excellent grant applications from teams of educators committed to working collaboratively on these important issues, and we are fortunate to be able to support 12 proposals. I look forward to helping these teams of educators put their proposals into action.”

Applicants had to submit a grant proposal with details about their project, including the participants in the professional learning community, the timeline, and how the proposed initiative will increase student achievement.

RIDE received 56 applications for the grants, which RIDE is funding through money set aside for this purpose as part of the \$75-million federal Race to the Top grant.

The recipients of the grants are:

For closing achievement gaps:

- Highlander Charter School: \$26,000
- Metcalf School (Exeter-West Greenwich): \$15,597

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For parent-teacher partnerships:

- Warwick Veterans Memorial High School: \$14,775

For using the Common Core:

- Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry: \$9,988
- Bristol Warren, Portsmouth, and Tiverton districts: \$24,900
- Chariho Regional District: \$24,000
- Fishing Cove Elementary School (North Kingstown): \$18,754
- Gloucester Public Schools - elementary schools: \$9,980
- The Greene School (charter public school): \$15,330
- International Charter School: \$10,000
- Narragansett Elementary School: \$9,172
- Samuel Slater Junior High School (Pawtucket), for English language arts: \$25,000

The award amounts are tentative and may change as the recipients develop their budgets. The awards cover either one year or a two-year span, beginning July 1; at the end of the award period, RIDE will convene a statewide conference at which the award recipients will share their work with other educators.

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